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Letter dated 9 December 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Seyoum Mesfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia regarding the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter to all members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Teruneh **Zenna**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2005 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1640 (2005). As always, Ethiopia shall do its level best to cooperate with the Security Council so that we may, sooner rather than later, be able to put behind us the unnecessary crisis between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which is in the interest of no one.

I wish to address first the issue of the demarcation of the boundary on the basis of the decision of the Boundary Commission. Ethiopia is firmly convinced that the carrying out of that task, notwithstanding the feigned frustration of Eritrea, is a matter which should cause no major hurdle if there is political will on the part of both parties. Ethiopia has such a will and it has no interest in keeping the crisis between the two countries going. That is why we came up with the five-point peace proposal more than a year ago, which was welcomed by the international community, including by the Security Council.

Ethiopia wishes to reassure the Security Council that what Ethiopia is looking for is a win-win outcome which is consistent with sustainable peace between the two countries.

With respect to the current tension, which was the major reason for Council resolution 1640 (2005), it must be stressed that it is Eritrea that has created the ongoing crisis. As we have emphasized whenever we have had the opportunity, Eritrea should not be rewarded for escalating tensions along the border, a tactic that Eritrea appears to have adopted as a means of putting pressure on the Security Council.

In response to Eritrea's continued bellicose words and actions in violation of the Algiers Agreements, Ethiopia has reacted with consistent moderation. Ethiopia has made clear its eagerness to engage Eritrea in dialogue, which the Secretary-General and the Security Council have repeatedly urged. Moreover, while Ethiopia has continued to be vigilant, taking the necessary steps consistent with its obligation and commitment to prevent a miscalculation by Eritrea, Ethiopia has guaranteed that it will not resort to threats or use of force as a means of resolving the dispute between the two countries.

Coming to specifics with respect to what is expected of the two countries to reduce the current tension pursuant to resolution 1640 (2005), I would like to stress that, unlike Eritrea, Ethiopia does not have any troops in the Temporary Security Zone and that the current deployment of troops is fully consistent with Ethiopia's obligations under the Algiers Agreement. We have no doubt that the Security Council is fully aware that Eritrea has violated the integrity of the Temporary Security Zone and that this Eritrean move is indeed dangerous. However, in the interest of peace and with a view to affording a better opportunity for the implementation of resolution 1640 (2005), Ethiopia is prepared to redeploy its forces consistent with the instruction contained in paragraph 2 of the resolution. Though we have seen no encouraging signs from Eritrea even after the resolution was adopted, Ethiopia is convinced that its compliance with the Council's instruction is necessary even if doing so might present some risks to Ethiopia's

security. It is Ethiopia's firm conviction that should there be any attempt by Eritrea to take advantage of Ethiopian unilateral compliance so as to cause harm to our country's security, the Security Council will shoulder its responsibility by taking the necessary measures.

(*Signed*) Seyoum **Mesfin**
Minister